

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 HA-05

OIC-02 SAA-01 /105 W

-----028860 010419Z /14/53

P 311158Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7077

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 AMMAN 06295

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR DOWNGRADING INSTRUCTIONS

E.O. 11652:GDSA

TAGS: UNRWA, XF, JO

SUBJECT: UNRWA ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING AUGUST 29,

- 1978

REF: A. AMMAN 6205, B. AMMAN 4080, C. 77 STATE 113072

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED MEMORANDUM FROM UNRWA CHIEF OF SECRETARIAT POLLETIN STATING THAT ANNUAL UNRWA ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING (ADCOMM), CHAIRED BY THE UK, WILL TAKE PLACE IN AMMAN AUGUST 29. PROVISIONAL AGENDA INCLUDES: (1) ADOPTION OF SUMMARY RECORDS OF NOVEMBER 25, 1977 MEETING; (2) CONSIDERATION OF THE COMMISSIONER-GENERAL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR JULY 1, 1977 TO JUNE 30, 1978; AND (3) OTHER BUSINESS.

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2. THREE COPIES OF DRAFT OF COMMISSIONER-GENERAL'S ANNUAL REPORT TO UNGA POUCHED TO HOWELL, NEA/ARN JULY 29. DRAFT REPORT IS COMPLETE EXCEPT FOR COMMISSIONER-GENERAL'S INTRODUCTION WHICH WILL BE POUCHED WHEN RECEIVED. REPORT IS ROUTINE. IT PROJECTS 1978 DEFICIT OF \$13.8 MILLION, COMPARED WITH AN ESTIMATED DEFICIT OF \$26.8

MILLION AT BEGINING OF YEAR. REPORT STATES THAT IF 1978 BUDGET IS FULLY IMPLEMENTED BY DRAWING DOWN ON WORKING CAPITAL, ONLY \$1.9 MILLION OF WORKING CAPITAL WOULD REMAIN AT END OF 1978. REPORT NOTED THAT THIS WOULD LEAVE UNRWA WITH INADEQUATE RESOURCES TO OPERATE IN EARLY MONTHS OF 1979 AND CONCLUDES THAT "SUBSTANTIAL PORTIONS" OF THE 1978 PROGRAM CAN NOT THEREFORE BE IMPLEMENTED. (THIS REFERS TO PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED CUTS IN RATIONS AND SERVICES).

3. FOR 1979 THE AGENCY ESTIMATES TOTAL EXPENDITURES AT \$151.8 MILLION, OF WHICH \$145.6 MILLION ARE RECURRENT EXPENDITURES COMPARED WITH ADJUSTED RECURRENT COSTS OF \$128.7 MILLION IN 1978. INCREASE INCLUDES \$3.3 MILLION OF "NORMAL" INCREASES, \$7.1 MILLION FOR HIGHER STAFF COSTS AS A RESULT OF INFLATION, \$3.1 MILLION FOR RATION COST INCREASES AND \$2.1 MILLION FOR HEADQUARTERS RELOCATION TO VIENNA AND AMMAN.

4. IN CONVERSATION JULY 29, UNRWA JORDAN DIRECTOR TANNER TOLD POLOFF HE EXPECTS NO UNUSUAL PROBLEMS AT ADCOMM MEETING, ALTHOUGH HE DOES EXPECT QUESTION OF HEADQUARTERS MOVE TO VIENNA TO BE RAISED BY THOSE COUNTRIES HOSTING REFUGEES (REF A). TANNER TAKES VIEW THAT CONTINUING PROTESTS AGAINST MOVE ARE SIMPLY FOR POLITICAL EFFECT.

5. WHILE WE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO ACCEPT FACT OF UNRWA
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MOVE TO VIENNA, EMBASSY, FOR REASONS OUTLINED REF B, CONTINUES TO BELIEVE MOVE IS ILL-ADVISED. THERE IS SOME TRUTH TO CLAIM BY GOJ THAT SPACE COULD BE FOUND IN AMMAN AND THAT GOJ NOT GIVEN ADEQUATE TIME TO SECURE IT; THERE IS ALSO SOME TRUTH TO UNRWA'S CLAIM THAT SPACE SUGGESTED BY GOJ WAS INADEQUATE AND TOO DECENTRALIZED FOR EFFICIENT OPERATION. NEED FOR RAPID MOVEMENT OUT OF BEIRUT OBVIOUS TO ALL. HOWEVER, ON BALANCE WE BELIEVE ANY INCONVENIENCE TO UNRWA OUTWEIGHED BY POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS -- NOT LEAST OF WHICH IS INAPPROPRIATENESS OF A REFUGEE PROGRAM FOR PALESTINIANS AND LARGELY STAFFED BY PALESTINIANS BEING ADMINISTERED FROM COMFORTABLE CONFINES OF EUROPE.

6. WE THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO U.S. TO BE ON RECORD AT ADCOMM AS EXPRESSING OUR RESERVATIONS ON UNRWA'S MOVE TO VIENNA. WE WOULD LEAVE TO ARAB COUNTRIES, IF THEY ARE SERIOUS IN THEIR DESIRE FOR REVERSE OF THE MOVE, TO TAKE THE LEAD FOR ITS RECONSIDERATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO PRESS FOR ACTION IN THE UNGA. WE RECOMMEND OUR RESERVATIONS BE PART OF CUSTOMARY STATEMENT WE MAKE AT ADCOMM, AND ALSO THAT U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

BE AUTHORIZED TO SUPPORT APPROPRIATE WORDING ON THIS SUBJECT IN USUAL LETTER FROM ADCOMM CHAIRMAN TO COMMISSIONER-GENERAL. (WE WOULD DEFINE "APPROPRIATE" IN THIS CASE AS INCLUDING A TEMPERATELY PHRASED REQUEST TO COMMISSIONER-GENERAL TO RECONSIDER MOVE.) WE WOULD OF COURSE INFORM UNRWA AND UK CHAIRMAN OF OUR INTENTIONS ON THIS POINT IN ADVANCE.

7. EMBASSY PROPOSES THAT USG BE REPRESENTED AT ADCOMM MEETING BY POLITICAL CHIEF AND FIRST SECRETARY PHILIP R. MAYHEW, WITH POLOFF (SECOND SECRETARY) A. ELIZABETH JONES AS ALTERNATE DELEGATE. PLEASE ADVISE ON RECOMMENDATION ABOVE AND ANY OTHER POINTS DEPARTMENT WISHES US TO MAKE IN CUSTOMARY USG STATEMENT. WE ASSUME THAT GUIDANCE FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAA-01 ABF-01
AID-05 OIC-02 /105 W
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 AMMAN 06295

DEALING WITH PLO ISSUE AT ADCOMM MEETING REMAINS AS IT WAS FOR 1977 MEETING (REF C).

8. FROM RECENT HOWELL VISIT HERE WE UNDERSTAND DEPARTMENTT
HAS COPIES OF RECENT REPORT ON UNRWA BY SFRC STAFFERS
MCCALL AND ASHWORTH. REQUEST COPY FOR EMBASSY AND
ONE FOR UNRWA JORDAN.SUDDARTH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: REFUGEES, MEETING AGENDA, MEETINGS, COMMISSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PLANNING MEETINGS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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